Status of Iowans of Asian and Pacific Islander Heritage

Department of Human Rights
State of Iowa

2nd Annual Report February 1, 2008

COMMISSION ON THE STATUS OF IOWANS OF ASIAN AND PACIFIC ISLANDER HERITAGE

Lucas State Office Building Des Moines, IA 50319

Tel: 515-281-4223 Fax: 515-242-6119 info@iowacapi.org www.iowacapi.org

Section 1 Commission

Vision:

All Iowans live up to their potential, regardless of ethnicity, station in life, and religion.

Mission:

The mission of the Status of Iowans of Asian and Pacific Islander Heritage is to advise the governor and the general assembly in order to empower Asians and Pacific Islanders, improve their well-being, and celebrate a diverse Iowa.

Priorities:

- A. Advise the Governor and the General Assembly
- B. Empower Asian and Pacific Islanders
- C. Improve well-being of API
- D. Celebrate a diverse Iowa

2007 Commissioners:

- Rita Arora, Iowa City (Treasurer)
- Ning Chia, Pella
- Lin Ly, Burlington (Secretary)
- Frank Osako, Cedar Rapids (Chair)
- Richard Park, Davenport
- Cecilia Peralta, Fort Dodge (Vice Chair)
- Vinh Nguyen, Des Moines
- Ilima Young-Dunn, Des Moines

Division Administrator: Cyndi Chen, cyndi.chen@iowa.gov (Full-time) Youth Outreach Coordinator: Mollie Ibbotson, mollie.ibbotson@iowa.gov (AmeriCorps*VISTA member)

Section 2 Program and Projects

The first Division Administrator, Cyndi Chen, began her post on September 8, 2006. Considerable efforts were spent on navigating the state government system – who does what, when to do reports in what formats, where the information stores, how things get done, and more.

It is rather challenging to work with this extremely diverse Asian and Pacific Islander (API) community. There are more than 20 ethnic groups; there are subgroups within subgroups. The "Commission" concept is new to majority of the community members. Many of refugees escaped their home countries due to oppress by the government. They don't trust government per se. It takes time to find where those ethnic group clusters, understand the dynamics within and among those communities, identify their leaders, getting to know them, and introduce the Commission to them. "Relationship Building" is the key to work with the APIs.

With limited state appropriation, there was no choice but partnering with other public and private entities and searching for grant funding to carry out programs and projects.

Fiscal Year	Budget	Expenditure	Donations
2007	\$86,795.48	\$92,833.07	\$6,037.59
2008	\$127,093.00		

API MATTERS:

- Attend New Year celebrations organized by the Thai, Korean, Chinese, Vietnamese, Taidam communities
- Host a legislative ice cream social event at the Capitol Cafeteria with Iowa Commission of Latino Affairs and Iowa Commission on the Status of African-Americans, January 22
- Recruit API Iowans to serve on boards and commissions
- Draft the CAPI administrative rules
- Provide assistance on several cases: community disputes, child custody, human trafficking, and more
- Referrals provided to new comers: dental clinic, New Iowan Center, employment opportunities, Iowa Commission of Civil Rights, Iowa Legal Aids, Iowa Human Services, Primary Health Care, etc.

- Request Governor's proclamations for Lunar New Year celebrations and Asian Heritage Festival
- Partner with World of Difference and Iowa Sister States to bring a Chinese grass-weaving artist from New York to elementary schools in Cedar Rapids, Des Moines, Dubuque, and Newton areas, May 1-12
- Partner with Iowa Sister States, Taipei Economic and Culture Office in Chicago to bring Hung Sheng Lion Dance Theater of Taiwan to perform in Des Moines, May 10
- Co-host a VIP brunch event at the Fifth Annual Asian Heritage Festival – CelebrAsian, Blank Park Zoo of Des Moines, May 12, www.celebrasian.org
- Partner with Iowa Sister States to host 2 artists and 3 TV journalists and producers from sister state Heibei Province of China, July 21-28 and organize an exhibit at Iowa State History Building
- Sponsor "No Exit- Human Trafficking Conference" at Hoyt Sherman Place of Des Moines, October 10
- Facilitated presentations to the API community:
 - "Asian and Pacific Islander Iowans health disparities" presented by Dr. Michele Yehieli, Associate Professor and Executive Director of Project EXPORT Center of Excellence on Health Disparities and Dr. Mark Grey, Associate Director of Center for Social and Behavioral Research, Professor of Sociology, Anthropology, Criminology, and Director of Iowa Center for Immigrant Leadership and Integration
 - "Civil Rights" presented by Ralph Rosenberg, Executive Director of Iowa Civil Rights Commission
- Apply AmeriCorps*VISTA (Volunteers In Service To America) grant and reward for 3 years of one VISTA member per year with option of adding 2nd one for around \$10,000 per year – Youth Outreach Coordinator was hired in October.
- Youth outreach programs:
 - o Partner with Des Moines Public Schools to hold the Asian Pacific American Education Conference Moving to the Next level of Education on April 21, 2007 at Callanan Middle School, Des Moines; target grade 5th to 12th students and their parents on transition from elementary school to middle school, middle school to high school, high school to post-secondary education

- opportunities; better understanding between youth and their parents
- o Partner with Employee & Family Resources (EFR) and Grand View College hold a Youth Leadership Summit on May 11, the Summit featured Tou Ger Xiong as a keynote speaker and held breakout sessions in diversity, political activism, and community involvement. Ninety-five (95) students from 8 high schools in 4 districts in Central Iowa attended.
- Support TOGETEHR a student run volunteer and civic engagement group, founded by 2 API high school students in August with the mission "To grow, learn and give TOGETHER." The group meets on a weekly basis to volunteer, socialize, and learn about the community. They help with a supply drive for the Burmese community, the AdmirAsian Awards, events at Des Moines Area Community College, the Robert D. Ray Asian Gardens, and Tea with former Governor of Washington State Gary Locke.
- o Partner with Des Moines Public Schools, Principal Financial Group, and Iowa Mentoring Partnership to develop an API E-Mentoring program and pilot in the spring of 2008: connect high school students with professionals through weekly e-mail communication about the work world.
- Collaborate with Latino Affairs and Status of African Americans to launch Iowa youth Congress – a minority youth civil engagement program, http://www.ycpp.net.
- Participated the Central Iowa Chapter of the Society for Human Resource Management (CISHRM) Diversity Resource Fair, Grand View College Multicultural Fair, Principal Financial Group Diversity Fair, Tai Village Festival, and Iowa's Mosaic Diversity Conference
- Work with 5 Iowa State University students in evaluating CAPI website and newsletter template
- Work with an intern of University of Northern Iowa public policy graduate student, to develop a town hall meeting format, identify how the API Iowans will be identified and invited to attend the town hall meeting, set up a town hall meeting, and develop an evaluation for the town hall meeting
- Maintain and update website <u>www.iowacapi.org</u> and listserv
- Work on the Capitol complex conference rooms naming matter -Hoover Office Building, of Iowa State Capitol Complex, Level A Conference Rooms 5, 6, and 7 were named as the Sahai Family

Conference Center to recognize the contributions that the Sahai Family, of Webster City, has made to the state of Iowa.

- Draft "Interpreter Bill" language
- Work with Department of Management people on CAPI strategic plan and performance plan
- Partnered with Iowa Public Television (IPTV) to distribute DVDs of "A Promise Called Iowa" to 543 public libraries, 627 Area Education Agencies and others. This documentary film made by IPTV on how Iowa became a place of refuge and freedom for many Southeast Asians, www.iptv.org/promise/.
- Serve on Governor's Race & Detention Task Force, New Iowan Center community advisory Committee
- Maintain and update website: www.iowacapi.org and listserv: api.iowa.gov

OTHER MATTERS:

- Meet National K-12 Foreign Language Resource Center at Iowa State University on the grant they received from U.S. Department of Education to develop K-12 Chinese language curriculum
- Assist Iowa Historical Museum to review gifts Governor Vilsack received during his tenure
- Accompany and act as an interpreter for a Chinese music performing group (2 adults and 3 children) to perform in schools and corporation, Feb. 16
- Provide orientation to two teachers of Iowa going to teach English in Taiwan, Feb. 20
- Give presentations to Iowa State University Asian American Culture class; University of North Iowa basketball team before their leaving for Thailand to attend the World University Basketball Competition, Department of Human Rights Commissioners, and more
- Serve as a coach for the Perry and Denison communities to apply the "Great Places" grant
- Meet and greet international visitors:
 - Corn, Soybean, and Meat Delegations from Taiwan a sister state of Iowa on June 11
 - A freedom activist from China on June 26.

- o Hebei China (a sister state of Iowa) Delegation on June 27
- Hebei TV and artist delegation from July 21-28
- o New Counsel General of China in Chicago Huang Ping on August 8
- o A city council member from Hong Kong on August 16
- Two visitors from Hawaii Department of Corrections on September 13
- o Tajikistan women on September 20
- Several journalists from Asian countries to report presidential elections

ATTACHMENTS:

Asian/Pacific Americans in Iowa: 2007

ASIAN/PACIFIC AMERICANS IN IOWA: 2007

In 1978, a joint congressional resolution established Asian/Pacific American Heritage Week. The first 10 days of May were chosen to coincide with two important anniversaries: the arrival in the United States of the first Japanese immigrants (May 7, 1843) and the completion of the transcontinental railroad (May 10, 1869). In 1992, Congress expanded the 10-day observance to a month-long celebration.

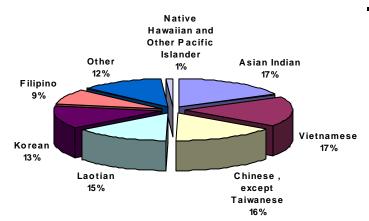
49,565

The number of Iowa residents in 2005 who say they are Asian or Asian in combination with one or more other races. This group comprises 1.7 percent of the total population. The number Iowa residents who say they are Asian alone was 43,010.

2,290

The number of Iowa residents in 2005 who say they are native Hawaiian and other Pacific Islander or native Hawaiian and other Pacific islander in combination with one or more other races. This group comprises 0.1 percent of the total population. The number Iowa residents who say they are native Hawaiian and other Pacific Islander alone was 1,287.

Asian/Pacific Islanders Population: 2005



5,444

The numeric change in the Asian population from 2000 to 2005. This is a 14.5 percent increase for the period.

141

The numeric change in population for native Hawaiian and other Pacific Islanders from 2000 to 2005. This is a 12.3 percent increase for the period.

Age Distribution

32.6%

The percentage of the native Hawaiian and other Pacific islander population that are under 18 in 2005; 3.3 percent are 65 or over. Meanwhile, 24.5 percent of people identifying themselves as Asian are under 18; 4.6 percent are 65 or over.

96,480

The projected number of lowa residents who will identify themselves as either Asian or native Hawaiian and other Pacific Islander in 2030 according to Woods & Poole Economics, Inc.

Coming to America

29,775

The number of Iowa residents in 2005 who were born in Asia. Asian-born residents comprise 28.9 percent of the state's total foreign-born population.

49.4%

The percentage of lowa's foreign-born in 2005 from Asia who are naturalized citizens. The corresponding rate for the foreign-born population as a whole is 32.4 percent.

5,205

The estimated number of foreign-born people from Vietnam in 2005. Next to Mexico, Vietnam is the leading country of birth for the state's foreign-born. Also among the top 10 countries of birth for Iowa's foreign-born population are Korea, India, China, and the Philippines.

EDUCATION

10,095

The number Asians enrolled in the state's elementary and high schools during the 2005-2006 school year.

40.1%

Percent increase in Asian enrollment between the 1991-1992 school year and 2005-2006.

47.7%

The percentage of Asians in 2005, age 25 and over, who have a bachelor's or higher degree education.

Asians have the highest proportion of college graduates of any race or ethnic group in the state. The corresponding rate for all lowans in this age group is 23.8 percent.

83.5%

The percentage of Asians in 2005, age 25 and over,

who are high school graduates. The corresponding rate for all lowans in this age group is 89.6 percent.

23.4%

The percentage of Asians in 2005, age 25 and over, who have a graduate degree (e.g., master's, Ph.D., M.D. or J.D.). The corresponding rate for all adults in the age group is 7.3 percent.

Serving Our Nation 1,010

The number of Asian-American military veterans in 2005.



Families

10,209

The number of families with householders who reported their race as Asian in 2005.

2,883

The numeric change in families with householders who reported their race as Asian between 2000-2005. This is a 39.4 percent increase for the period.

10.1 %

The percentage of Asian families with children under 18 headed by a single parent in 2005. The corresponding percentage for the state is 24%.

19.3 %

The percentage of native Hawaiians or other Pacific Islander families with children under 18 headed by a single parent in 2005.

LANGUAGES

5,387

The number of people who speak Laotian at home in 2005. Laotian is the most widely spoken Asian language in the state. Also among the top 10 most frequently spoken languages are: Vietnamese (4,981); Chinese (4,617); and Korean (2,502).

2,726

The number of people who speak Tagalog at home in 2005.

724

The number of Vietnamese speaking English Language Learners in Iowa's public and non-

public schools during the 2005-2006 school year. The number of Laotian speaking English Language Learners in Iowa's public and non-public schools during the 2005-2006 school year was 456 and the number of Tagalog speaking English Language Learners was 52.

3.5

The average family size for those who reported their race as Asian in 2000. The average family size in the state of Iowa is 3.0.

INCOME AND POVERTY

\$51,644

The median income of households in 2005 whose householders reported their race as Asian. The median household income for all lowans is \$43,609.

\$31,237

The median income of households in 2005

whose householders reported their race as native Hawaiians and other Pacific Islanders.

13.9%

The poverty rate in 2005 for those who reported their race as Asian. The corresponding rate for lowa as a whole is 10.9 percent.

COUNTIES AND CITIES

12,026

The number of Asians in Polk county in 2005, which has the largest population of this race of any lowa county. Polk county has both the largest population and the largest numerical increase (1,904) of people in this group between 2000 and 2005.

Story county is where Asians make up the highest proportion of the total population (5.6 percent).

288

The number of native Hawaiians or Pacific Islanders in Polk county, which leads all counties in Iowa.

Wayne county is where native Hawaiians and other Pacific Islanders make up the largest proportion (0.2 percent) of the total population.

6,946

The number of Asians in the city of Des Moines in 2000, which has the largest population of this race of any city in Iowa.

95

The number of Des Moines residents who reported their race as native Hawaiian and/or other Pacific Islander in 2000, the largest population of this race in any city in Iowa

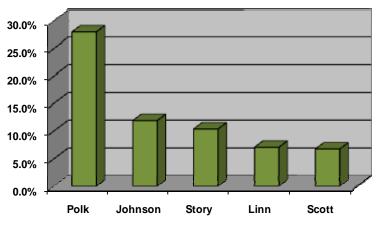
9.1 %

The percentage of the total population of Lakeside, lowa who reported their race as Asian in 2000. This is the largest percentage of all cities in lowa.

2.8 %

The percentage of the total population of Bode, Iowa who reported their race as Native Hawaiian and/or other Pacific Islander in 2000. This is the largest percentage of all cities in Iowa.

Percentage of all Asians in Iowa: Top 5 Counties of Residence: 2005



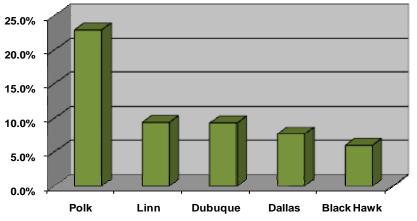
Percentage of all Asians in Iowa: Top 5 Cities of Residence: 2000

Des Moines	19.0%
Ames	10.7%
Iowa City	9.6%
Sioux City	6.5%
Cedar Rapids	5.8%

Percentage of all Native Hawaiian /Other Pacific Islanders in Iowa: Top 5 Cities of Residence: 2000

9.4%
7.7%
6.4%
4.2%
3.4%

Percentage of all Native Hawaiians and/or Other Pacific Islanders in Iowa: Top 5 Counties of Residence: 2005



State Data Center of Iowa a program of the State Library of Iowa

Miller Building E 12th and Grand Des Moines, Iowa 50319

Phone: 800-248-4483 Fax: 515-242-6543 Email: census@lib.state.ia.us

We're on the web! www.iowadatacenter.org www.iowacapi.org

Division on the Status of Iowans of Asian and Pacific Islander Heritage

Iowa Department of Human Rights Lucas State Office Building 321 E 12th Street Des Moines, Iowa 50319 Phone: 515-281-4223 Fax: 515-242-6119 Email: info@iowacapi.org

American Community Survey (ACS) Note: Data are limited to the household population and exclude the population living in institutions, college dormitories, and other group quarters.

Data Source (unless otherwise noted) : U.S. Census Bureau, 2005 American Community Survey U.S. Decennial Census 1990 and

Photos by the U.S. Census Bureau

EMPLOYMENT

5.2 %

The unemployment rate in 2000 for those who reported their race as Asian. The unemployment rate for all lowans is 4.2%.

19 %

The unemployment rate in 2000 for those who reported their race as native Hawaiians and other Pacific Islanders.

Occupation 40.5 %

The percent of Asian and/or native Hawaiian and other Pacific Islanders in 2005 in the management, professional, and related occupations field.

Business

1,786

The number of Asian-owned firms in Iowa in 2002.

30

The number of Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander-owned firms in Iowa in 2002.

4.3%

The percent increase in Asian and of Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander-owned firms between 1997 and 2002.

Source: 2002 Survey of Business Owners

Housing

\$95,600

The median home value for those who reported their race as Asian in 2000. The corresponding value for the state is \$82,500.

\$77,100

The median home value for those who reported their race as native Hawaiians and other Pacific Islander in 2000.

53.2 %

The percentage of those householders in 2005 who reported their race as Asian who own their home. The corresponding percentage for the state is 73.1%.

Occupations by Percent of Population: 2005

